

Bethel-New Harmony Church

2445 Mt. Elliot.

Local v 10/4/96
State
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Bethel-New Harmony Church



Historic overview:

The Bethel-New Harmony Church consists of three attached structures, a parish house, church and Sunday School Chapel. The Neo Gothic church complex was designed by Wm. H. Vollmer and built between 1904 and 1906.

In 1904, Reverend William Popcke of the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church purchased three lots on the corner of Mt. Elliot and Hendricks. The congregation was comprised predominantly of German labor class parishioners. The materials needed to build the brick church were supplied by the members. Materials included brick, stone, steel, electrical light fixtures and windows. Upon completion of the church, the complex was equipped with modern heating and electric lighting, a kitchen, dining room, and club rooms. The pews, altar and pulpit were all made of solid oak. The fresco paintings on the walls were done by Joacob Will. The church suffered from fire damage in 1921 and all the decorations were damaged but later were restored. Mass and schools were taught in German until the beginning of the 1930's.

The neighborhood underwent change and the congregation relocated in 1947.

New Harmony Baptist bought the church in the mid 1950's. Reverend and Mrs. M. L. Gooch established the congregation in 1946.